

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION - DIVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

**ITEM 5**

**SUBJECT**

INFORMATION ITEM ON THE LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER'S GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION PROGRAM IN THE SAN FERNANDO BASIN

**DISCUSSION**

The San Fernando Basin (Basin) is an aquifer which provides drinking water to over 800,000 residents within the City of Los Angeles. Over 70% of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's (LADWP) groundwater production wells in the Basin are impacted by contamination caused by various commercial and industrial activities. Most of the contamination was likely caused by improper storage, handling, and disposal of hazardous chemicals used in commercial and heavy industrial activities dating back to the 1940s.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Los Angeles Regional Water Board), the Department of Toxic Substances Control, as well as local agencies, have made significant progress in cleaning up source areas and remediating parts of the Basin. However, the scope of the contamination requires additional cleanup efforts.

In early 2015, LADWP completed a 6-year study characterizing the groundwater contamination in the Basin. LADWP has begun construction of one remediation facility and is in the planning phase for construction of other facilities. Design and construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$600 million, with ongoing treatment and remediation costs of up to \$50 million per year. The facilities will be designed to address impacts at LADWP's highest producing wellfields. Primary contaminants to be addressed include trichloroethylene (TCE), tetrachloroethylene (PCE), and 1,4-dioxane.

Permits issued by the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will follow DDW's "Policy Guidance for Direct Domestic Use of Extremely Impaired Sources" (Policy Memo 97-005). The remediation wells used by LADWP are likely to be subject to the 97-005 policy.

The Los Angeles Regional Board is actively working on source area cleanup in the Basin. Under a Memorandum of Understanding, the Los Angeles Regional Board receives funds from and works with LADWP on contaminant source investigation activities in the Basin.

LADWP has applied for funding through the Division of Financial Assistance (DFA). LADWP and DFA (along with DDW and the Los Angeles Regional Board) are currently working on funding agreements for an implementation project (North Hollywood West Wellfield) and three planning projects (Tujunga Wellfield, North Hollywood Centralized Treatment, Pollock Wellfield). The cost of these projects will be partially funded by Proposition 1 Groundwater Grant program funds.

**POLICY ISSUE**

This is an information item.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

**REGIONAL BOARD/DISTRICT OFFICE IMPACT**

DDW and the Los Angeles Regional Water Board are both working closely with DFA and LADWP in developing the scopes of work for various grant agreements associated with the San Fernando Valley groundwater remediation efforts. DDW will permit the facilities and the Los Angeles Regional Water Board is working on cleanup of source areas.

**HUMAN RIGHT TO WATER ANALYSIS**

The actions discussed under this item are consistent with the established policy of the State recognizing the human right to safe, clean, affordable, and accessible water adequate for human consumption, cooking, and sanitary purposes (human right to water; Water Code section 106.3). The proposed actions are also consistent with [Resolution No. 2016-0010](#), in which the State Water Board adopted the human right to water as a core value and top priority. As directed by the State Water Board in Resolution No. 2016-0010, staff have determined that the proposed actions support the human right to water by providing funding to clean up and prevent contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None. This is an information item.